

MARVEL

1

GIANT-SIZE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

KING'S RANSOM



SPENCER • ANTÔNIO • GÓMEZ • CARLOS • SINCLAIR

PETER PARKER was bitten by a radioactive spider and gained the proportional speed, strength, and agility of a SPIDER, adhesive fingertips and toes, and the unique precognitive awareness of danger called "SPIDER-SENSE"! After the tragic death of his Uncle Ben, Peter understood that with great power there must also come great responsibility. He became the crimefighting super hero called...

The Amazing SPIDER-MAN

KING'S RANSOM *Conclusion*

Peter Parker has been known to make some pretty questionable choices--sometimes born from eternal optimism, sometimes from desperation...sometimes from both! For example, Peter took in Fred Myers, A.K.A. super villain Boomerang, as his roommate, and the two of them took in the monster Gog as their pet. This isn't super surprising, considering Spidey used to date Black Cat, but he got swept up in Boomerang's quest for the super-powerful Lifeline Tablet scattered all over New York City. Why would Peter join this quest? Well, a city archivist told Boomerang not only about the scattered pieces of the tablet, but also that Mayor Wilson Fisk (you know, THE KINGPIN) is desperate to put the tablet back together.

Fisk is so desperate, he's turned all the super-criminals in NYC loose to help him get Boomerang and all the tablet pieces. Seeing this, Boomerang surprised everyone (and himself) and went after Fisk solo to spare Spider-Man. Spidey doesn't really roll like that, but luckily HE doesn't have to face it alone. He has a new suit (courtesy of gossip site *THREATS & MENACES*) that amps up his powers and gives people a first-person Spider-POV and also puts *TNM* chief J. Jonah Jameson in Spider-Man's ear, barking orders. Wait, that doesn't sound helpful AT ALL. Pete figured that out and finally made a GOOD choice and called in some REAL help.

NICK SPENCER
writer

ROGÊ ANTÔNIO
with CARLOS GOMEZ
& ZÉ CARLOS
artists

ALEX SINCLAIR | *colorist* VC's JOE CARAMAGNA | *letterer*

MARK BAGLEY, JOHN DELL, and BRIAN REBER | *cover artists*

DAVID BALDEON and ISRAEL SILVA | *variant cover artists*

ANTHONY GAMBINO | *designer* LINDSEY COHICK | *assistant editor*

NICK LOWE | *editor* C.B. CEBULSKI | *editor in chief*

SPIDER-MAN *created by* STAN LEE *and* STEVE DITKO



WAIT, LET ME SEE IF I GOT THIS--YOU WANT US TO HELP YOU SAVE...
...BOOMERANG?

I HATE THAT GUY.



YEAH, I MEAN, AS MUCH AS I LOVE A NEW AVENGERS REUNION--OR IS IT A DEFENDERS REUNION?

CAN'T BE DEFENDERS. I NEVER DID THAT.

YEAH, YOU DID.

AH, HELL. YOU'RE RIGHT.



POINT IS, STILL GOTTA DRAW THE LINE SOMEWHERE.

I GET IT. I REALLY DO...

...BUT YOU ALL HAVE TO BELIEVE ME--



"--HE'S
CHANGED."

BOOMERANG
HAS
CHANGED.

AND IT'S
TRUE.

IT WASN'T
OVERNIGHT.

IT WASN'T
EASY.

BUT THESE DAYS,
FRED IS A FRIEND.
(NO ONE IS MORE
SUPRISED THAN ME.)

AND HE'S
IN TROUBLE.
I HAVE TO
FIND HIM.

THANKFULLY,
I HAD SOME
HELP IN THAT
DEPARTMENT.

GOG LED ME
HALFWAY ACROSS
TOWN, CHASING
FRED'S SCENT,
TILL IT FINALLY
BROUGHT US--

--RIGHT
BACK HERE.

THIS IS WHERE
BOOMERANG AND I
FOUGHT ALL THOSE
VERMIN TO GET A
FRAGMENT AND
FOUND GOG IN THE
FIRST PLACE.

AND TURNS OUT
THE LAST FRAGMENT
WAS IN THE SAME PLACE
THE WHOLE TIME.
INFURIATING.

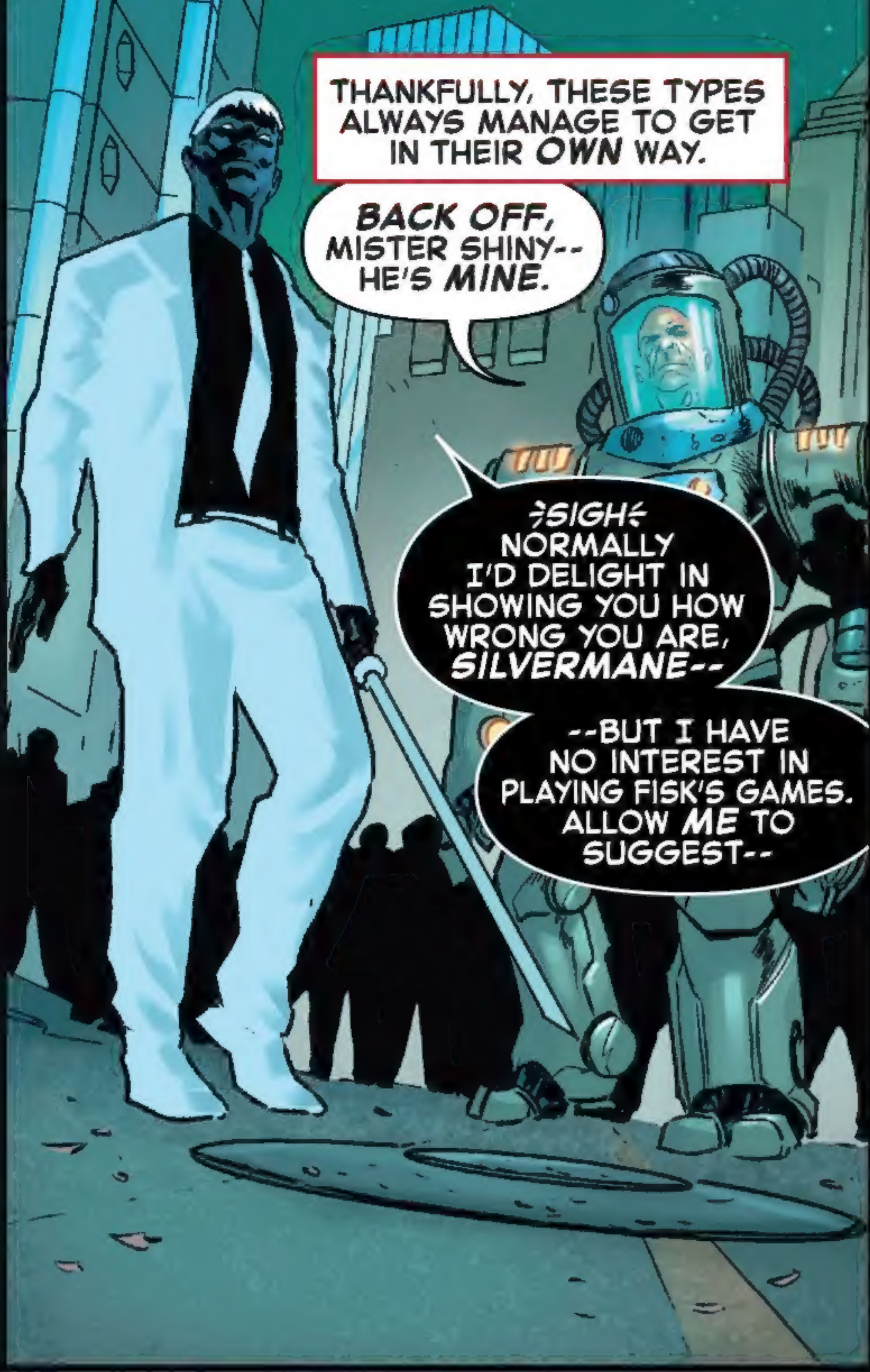
ON THE PLUS
SIDE, I FIGURED
AT LEAST
I KNEW--

--WHAT
I WAS
GETTING
INTO.

OR
GETTING
OUT OF...

EVERY CRIME BOSS
IN THE CITY WAS SUDDENLY
PULLING UP, SURROUNDING
THE ONLY GOOD ENTRANCE
TO THAT TUNNEL SECTION.

NO WAY I COULD
GET THROUGH ALL
OF THEM--AT LEAST
NOT IN TIME.

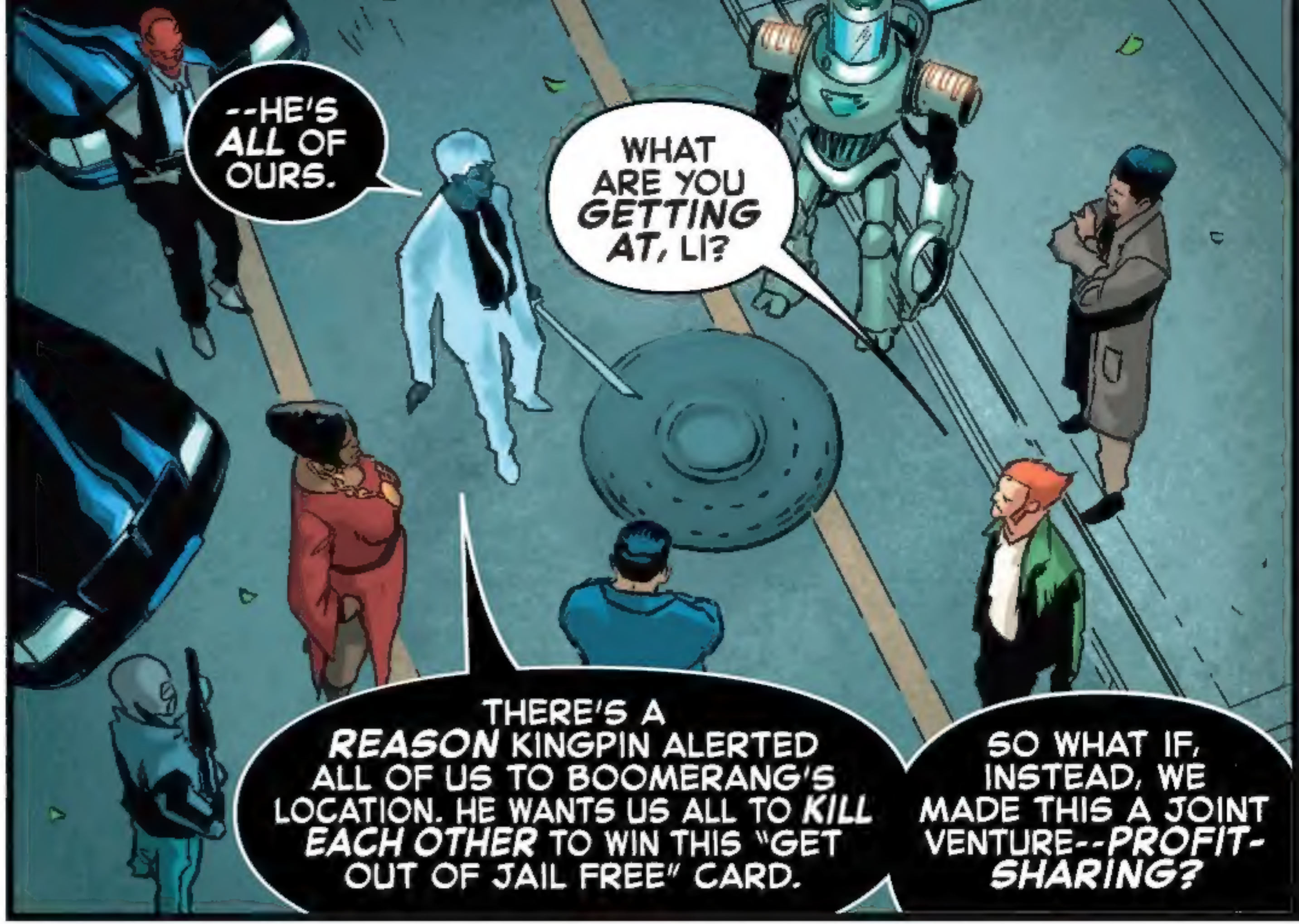


THANKFULLY, THESE TYPES ALWAYS MANAGE TO GET IN THEIR OWN WAY.

BACK OFF, MISTER SHINY-- HE'S MINE.

SIGH NORMALLY I'D DELIGHT IN SHOWING YOU HOW WRONG YOU ARE, SILVERMANE--

--BUT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN PLAYING FISK'S GAMES. ALLOW ME TO SUGGEST--



--HE'S ALL OF OURS.

WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT, LI?

THERE'S A REASON KINGPIN ALERTED ALL OF US TO BOOMERANG'S LOCATION. HE WANTS US ALL TO KILL EACH OTHER TO WIN THIS "GET OUT OF JAIL FREE" CARD.

SO WHAT IF, INSTEAD, WE MADE THIS A JOINT VENTURE--PROFIT-SHARING?



YOU REALLY THINK I WOULD TRUST THE LIKES OF YOU?

YEAH-- BESIDES, NO WAY AM I MAKING THAT KIND OF DEAL WITHOUT MY LAWYERS PRESENT.



SO...THEY MADE THEIR LAWYERS PRESENT.

TALK ABOUT CRIMINALS.



BUT WHILE THEY ARGUED OVER THE FINE PRINT, IT GAVE ME TIME.

FIRST, TO GET MJ TO KEEP AN EYE ON GOG DURING WHAT CAME NEXT--



--AND THEN TO CALL SOME OLD PALS FOR ASSISTANCE.



AW, NO.





GUYS, C'MON.
YOU DON'T ACTUALLY
BELIEVE THAT WHOLE
P.R. CAMPAIGN. DOES
THAT EVEN **SOUND**
LIKE ME?



THAT DEPENDS
ON HOW **YOU**
DEFINE
YOU.



YEAH. MAYBE
YOU GOT YOUR
BRAIN SWAPPED
WITH **DOC**
OCK.



OR MAYBE YOU
GOT CORRUPTED
BY AN **ALIEN**
SYMBIOTE.



OH, I GOT ONE--
MAYBE **KRAVEN**
THE HUNTER
STOLE YOUR
COSTUME--



SENSING
A **THEME**
HERE.

IT'S ALWAYS
SOMETHING
WITH YOU, IS
THE **THEME**.

YEAH. AND MAYBE
PEOPLE WOULDN'T BE
SO QUICK TO BELIEVE
THE **WORST** ABOUT
YOU--



--IF YOU EVER
REPLIED TO
AN **EMAIL**.

OR, YOU
KNOW, CAME
TO ONE OF THE
REUNION
DINNERS.

WAIT, THERE
HAVE BEEN
REUNION
DINNERS?

IT
WAS IN THE
EMAIL.



OOF.
THEY'RE NOT
WRONG.

I'VE BEEN SO
BUSY WITH ONE
CATASTROPHE
AFTER ANOTHER--

--I'VE LET A
LOT OF GOOD
FRIENDSHIPS
GO.







OKAY,
I'LL
ADMIT--

THUMP

--THIS
FEELS
GOOD.



PNPH

MAYBE
NOT *THIS*
PART, SURE.



BUT BEING PART OF
THIS TEAM AGAIN,
WITH *THESE* PEOPLE?

YONK

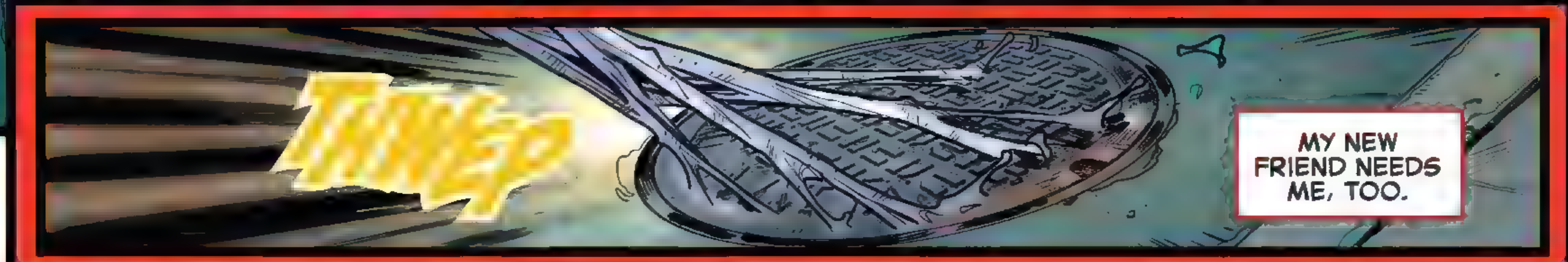
THAT'S
SOMETHING
I'M GLAD I'M
HERE FOR.



SPIDEY,
GET OUT OF
HERE!

SIGH YEAH,
MY OLD FRIEND IS
RIGHT, SADLY.

PONPH



THUMP

MY NEW
FRIEND NEEDS
ME, TOO.



AND OF COURSE IT STRIKES ME--THIS IS A LOT TO DO FOR SOMEONE WHO USED TO BE MY ENEMY.

BUT THEN--

THIS IS IT, BOY! WE'VE MADE IT!

SPLASH

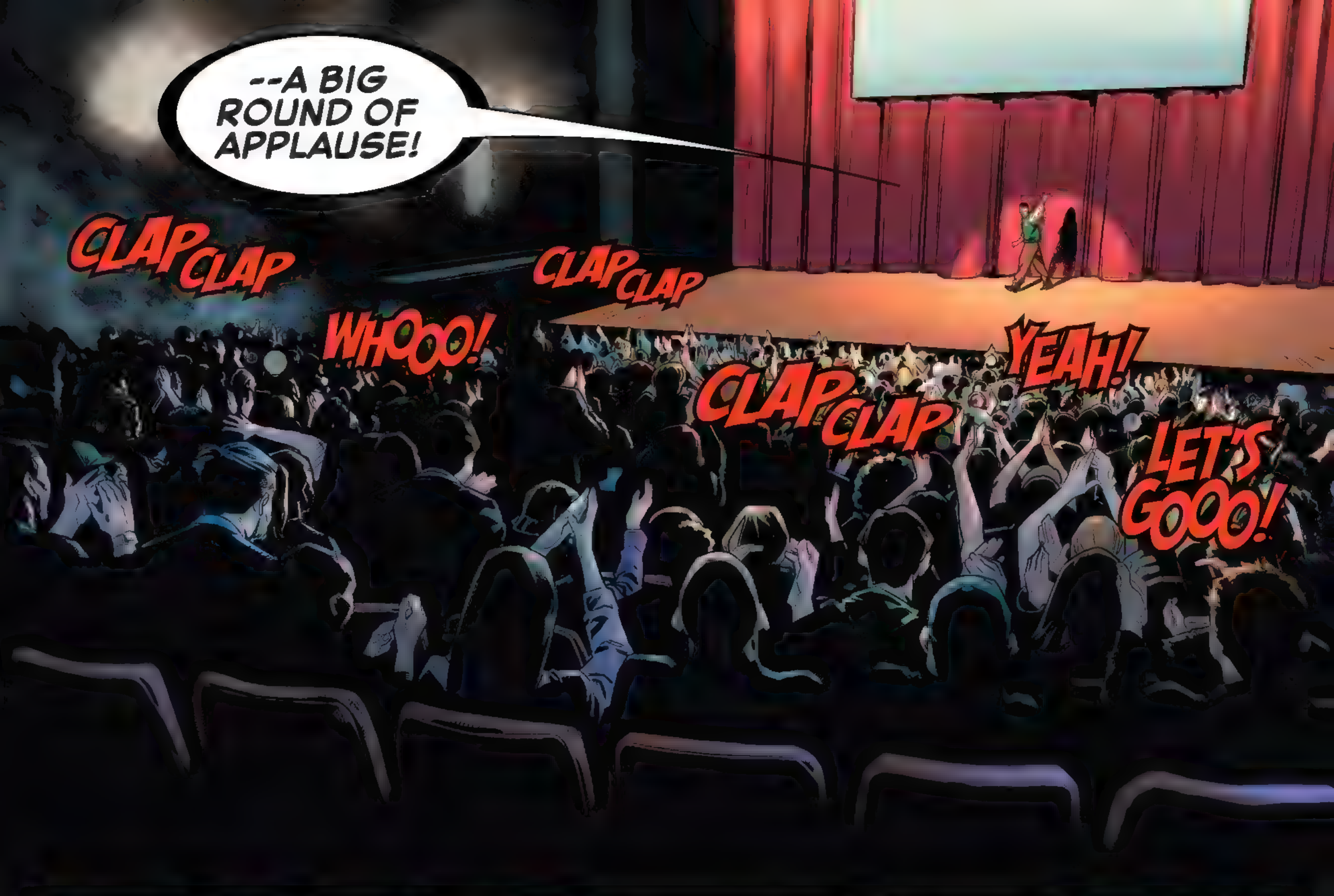
--I GUESS THESE THINGS CHANGE.

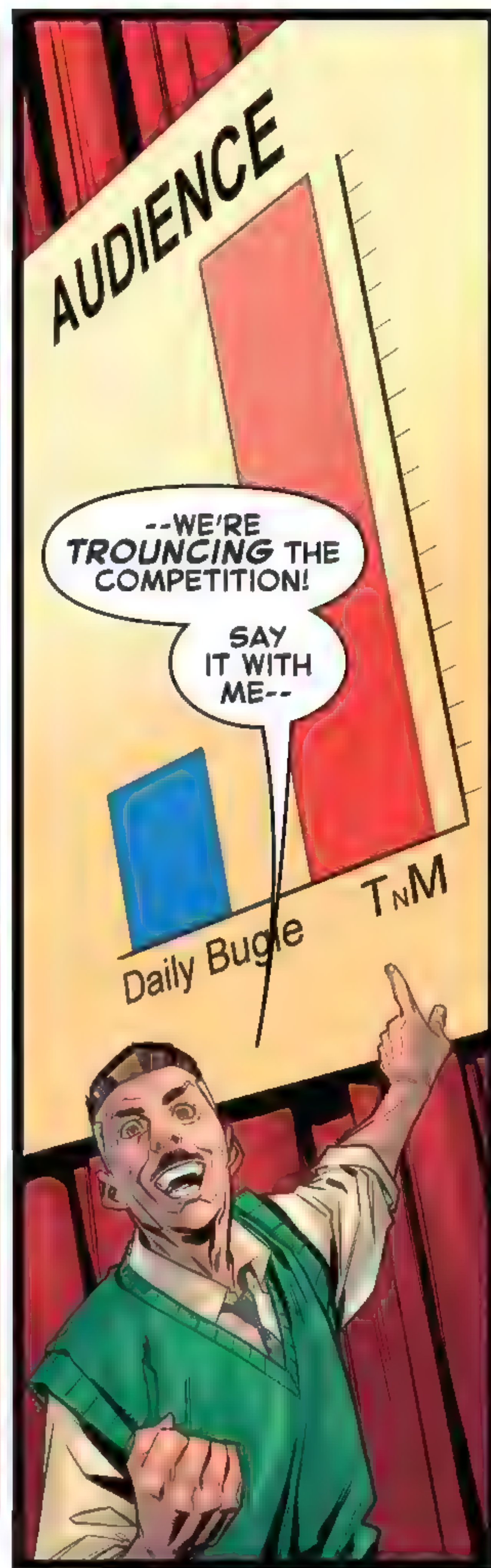
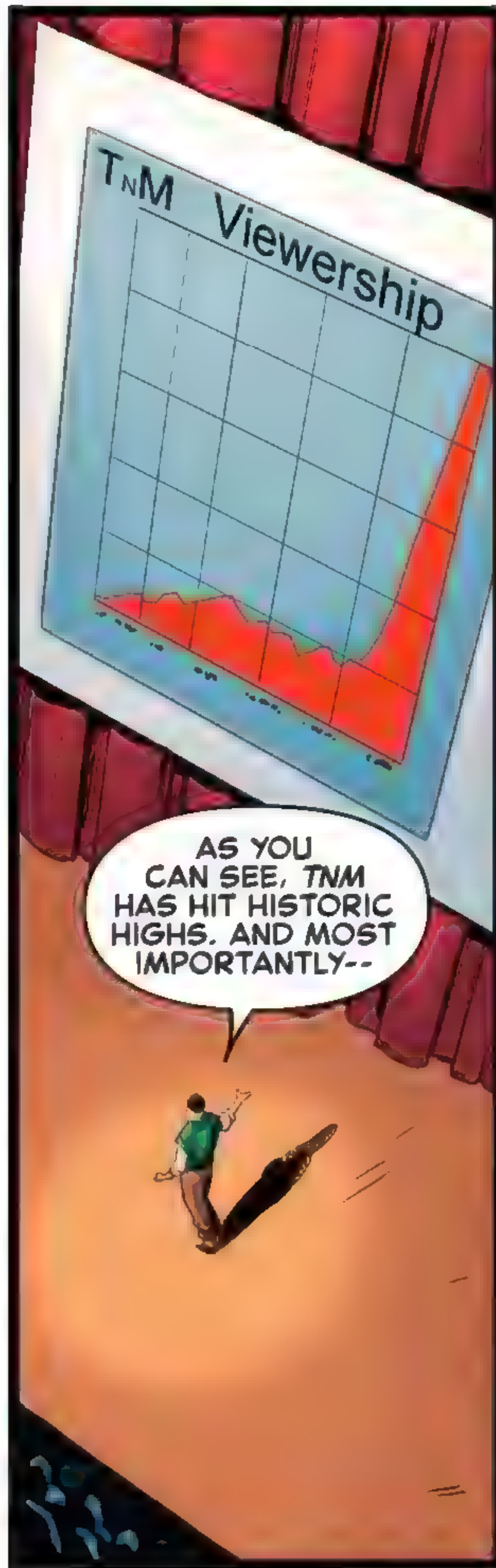
WE'VE ARRIVED!

JONAH? WHY IS THERE ALL THAT BACKGROUND NOISE?

HAD TO WORK REMOTE. YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE HAVING A BIG DAY, YOU KNOW.

J. JONAH JAMESON IS ABOUT TO GET WHAT HE SO RICHLY DESERVES--









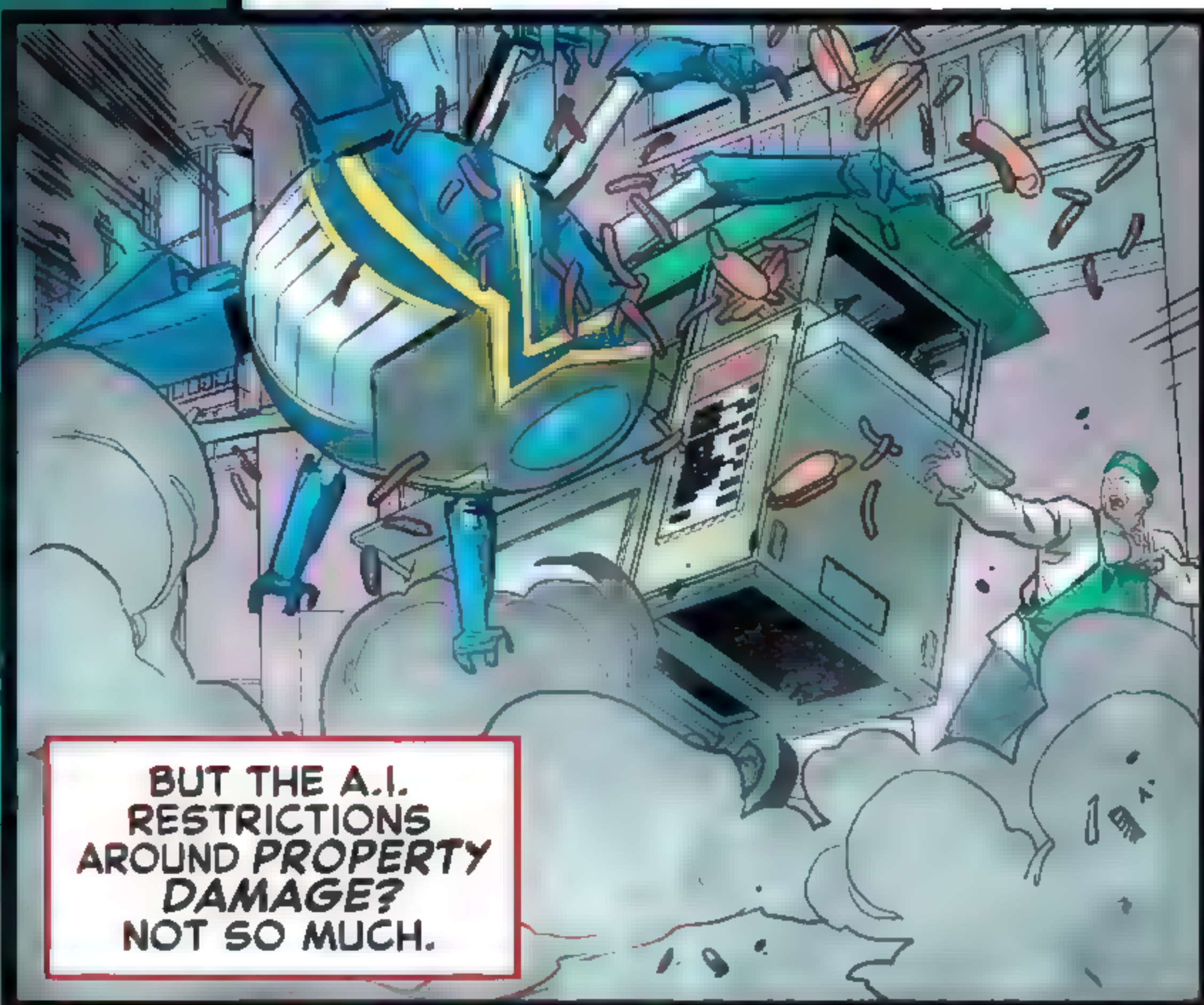
BUT THE
REST OF
THE CITY
SURE DID.

AS PEOPLE ALL OVER
THE CITY LOGGED ON
TO HELP REMOTE-PILOT
JONAH'S DRONES AND
"HELP" THEIR HEROES.

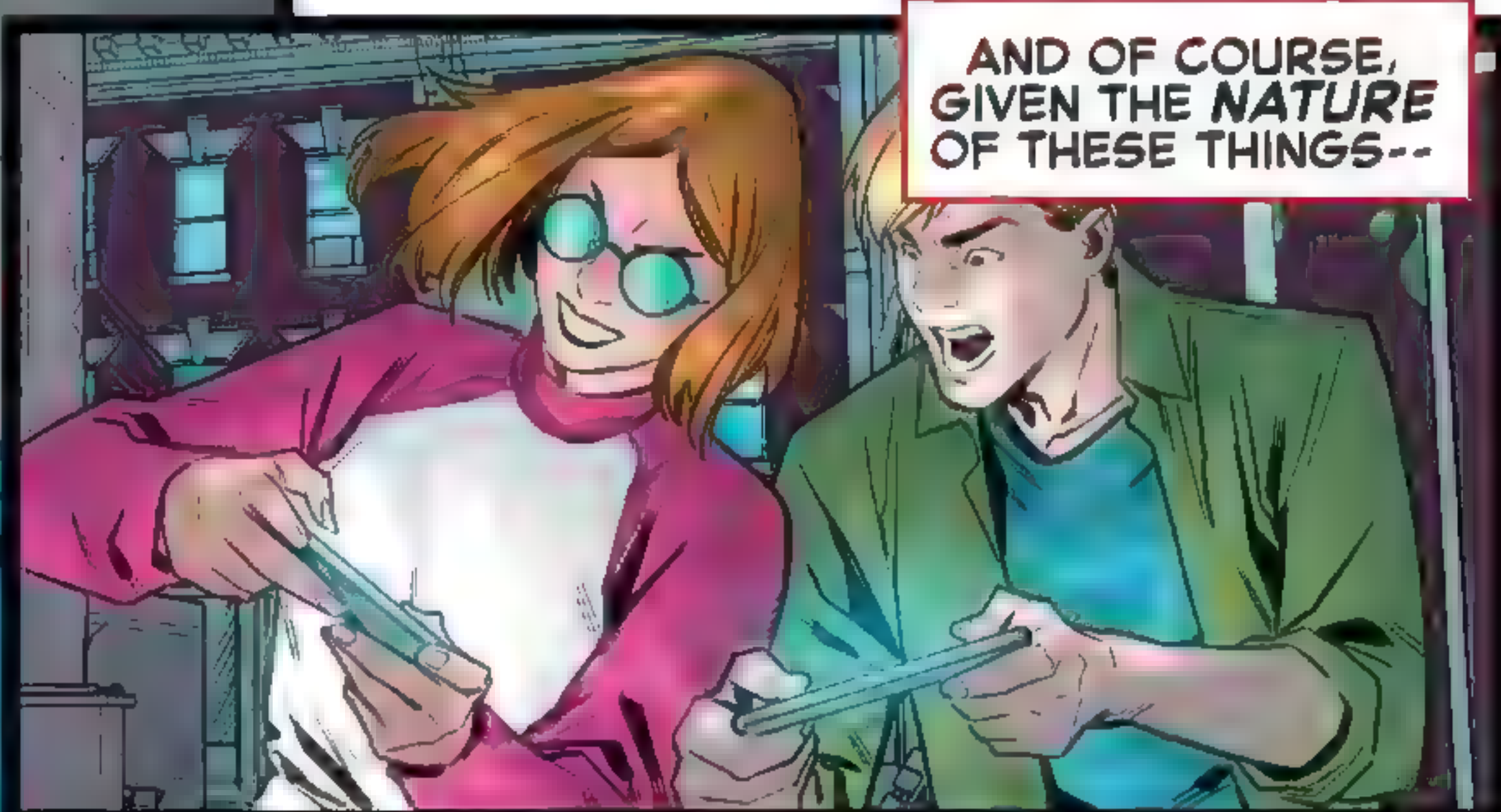


NOW, GIVE
THREATS AND
MENACES
CREDIT.

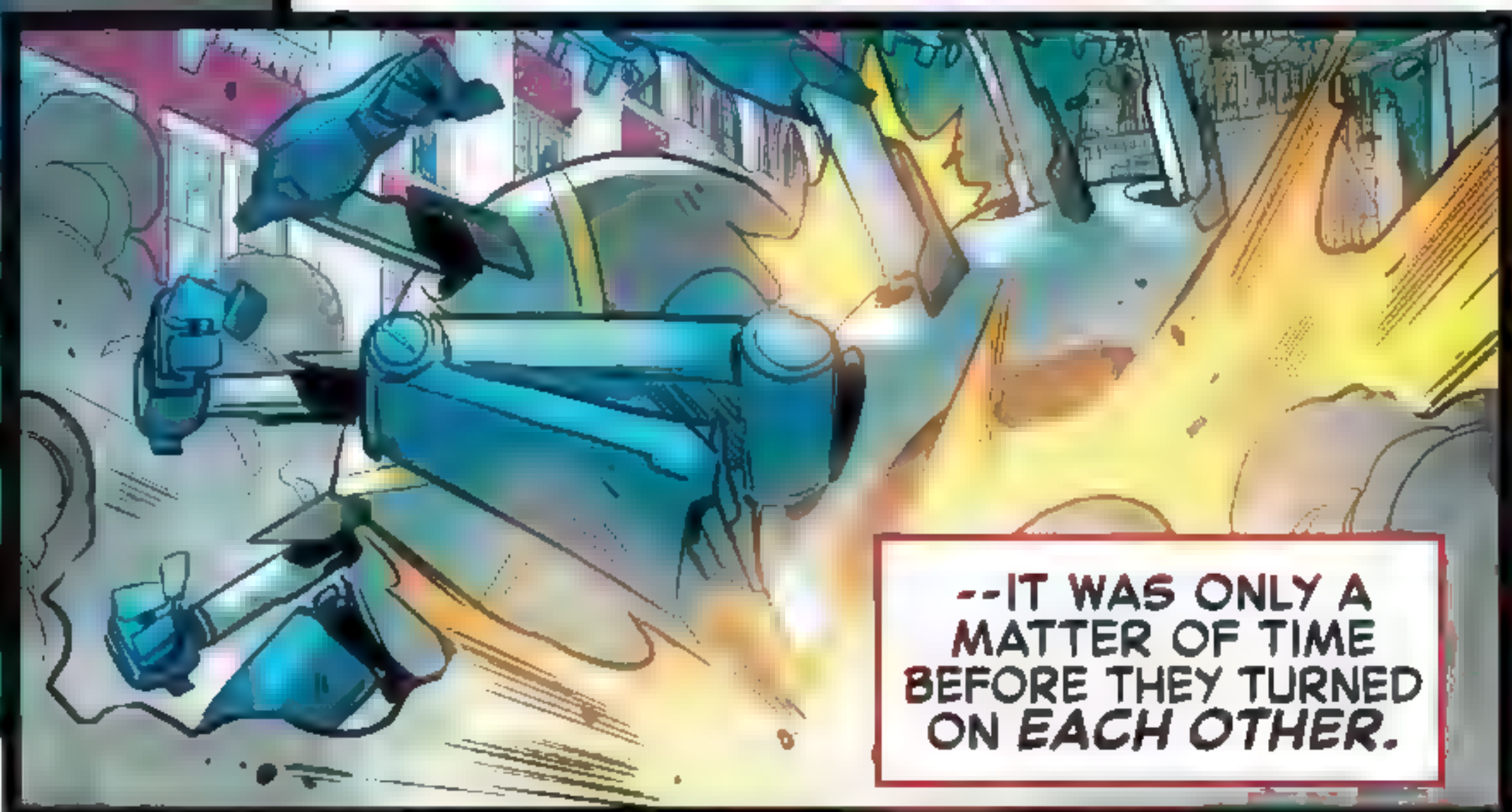
THEY
PROGRAMMED
THESE THINGS
TO BE ENTIRELY
NONLETHAL.



BUT THE A.I.
RESTRICTIONS
AROUND *PROPERTY
DAMAGE?*
NOT SO MUCH.



AND OF COURSE,
GIVEN THE *NATURE*
OF THESE THINGS--



--IT WAS ONLY A
MATTER OF TIME
BEFORE THEY TURNED
ON *EACH OTHER.*



YEAH, NOT JONAH'S
FINEST HOUR.
THEN AGAIN--



--WE'RE
ALL HAVING A
ROUGH DAY.

I MEAN,
I STILL HAVEN'T
FOUND--



FRED!



FRED!
WAIT!

LEAVE
ME ALONE,
SPIDEY!



LIKE I
TOLD PETE
IN THE
NOTE--

--I GOT
THIS!



I
DON'T GOT
THIS.



I GOT YOU.



CAN'T EVEN GET THIS PART RIGHT. UNBELIEVABLE.

FRED, COME ON, YOU'RE BEING TOO HARD ON YOURSELF.



YEAH? WHAT DO YOU KNOW? YOU'RE LIKE THE BEST SUPER HERO IN THE WORLD. YOU GOT YOUR WHOLE LIFE PUT TOGETHER.



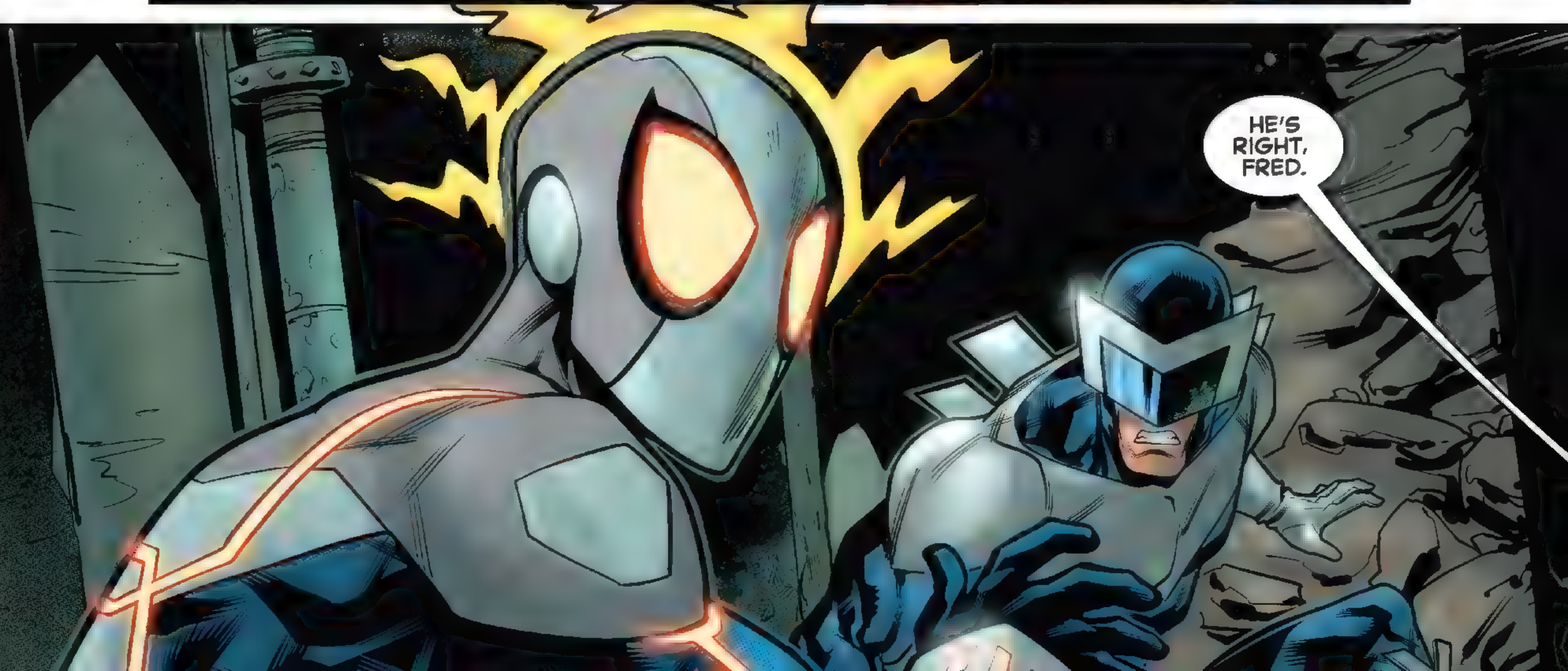
ME? ALL I CAN EVER DO IS PUT THE PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT IN DANGER.

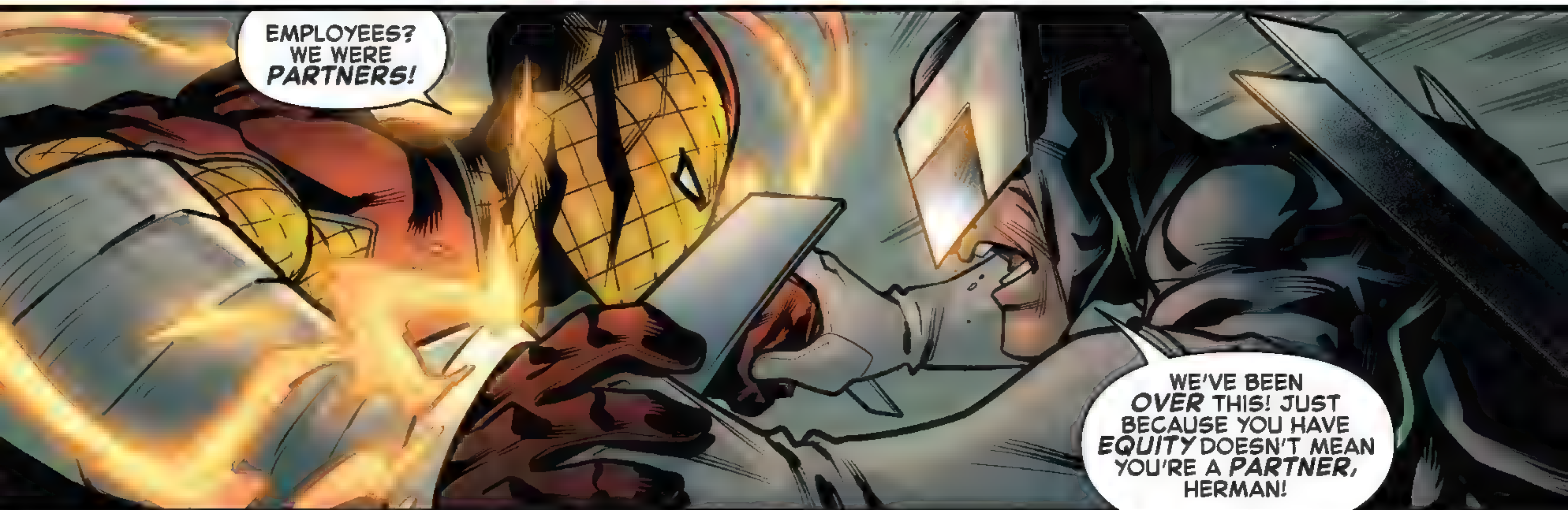
IT FEELS LIKE THE MORE I TRY TO FIX THINGS, THE MORE I SCREW THINGS UP.

LIKE NO MATTER WHAT I DO, I CAN NEVER WIN.



>SIGH<

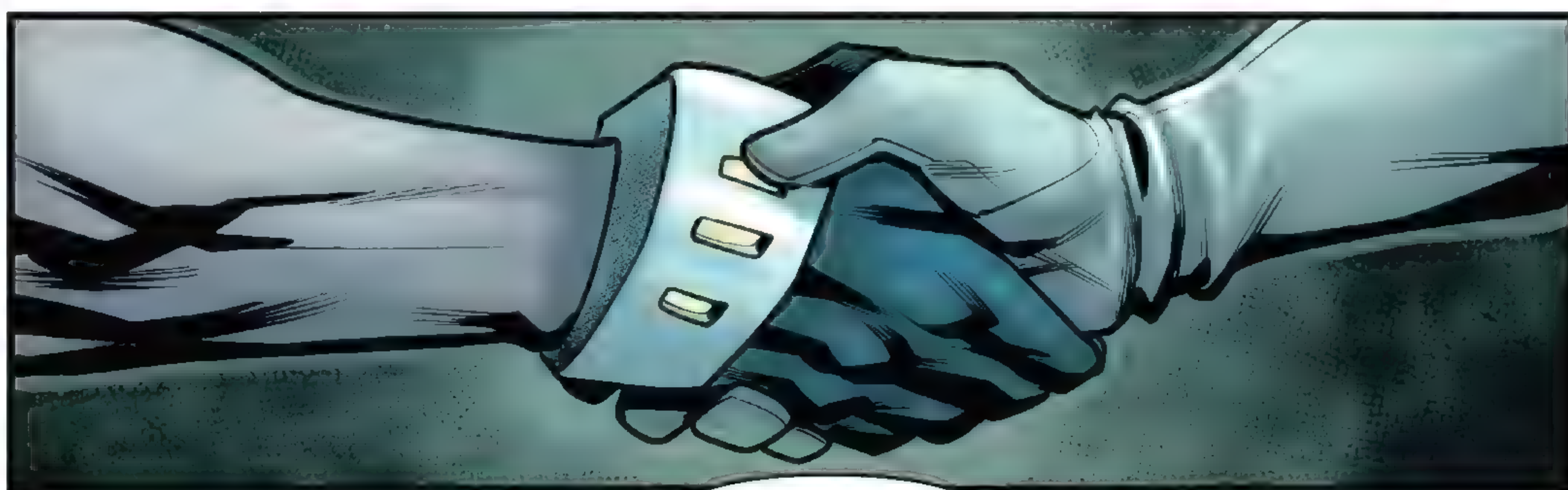
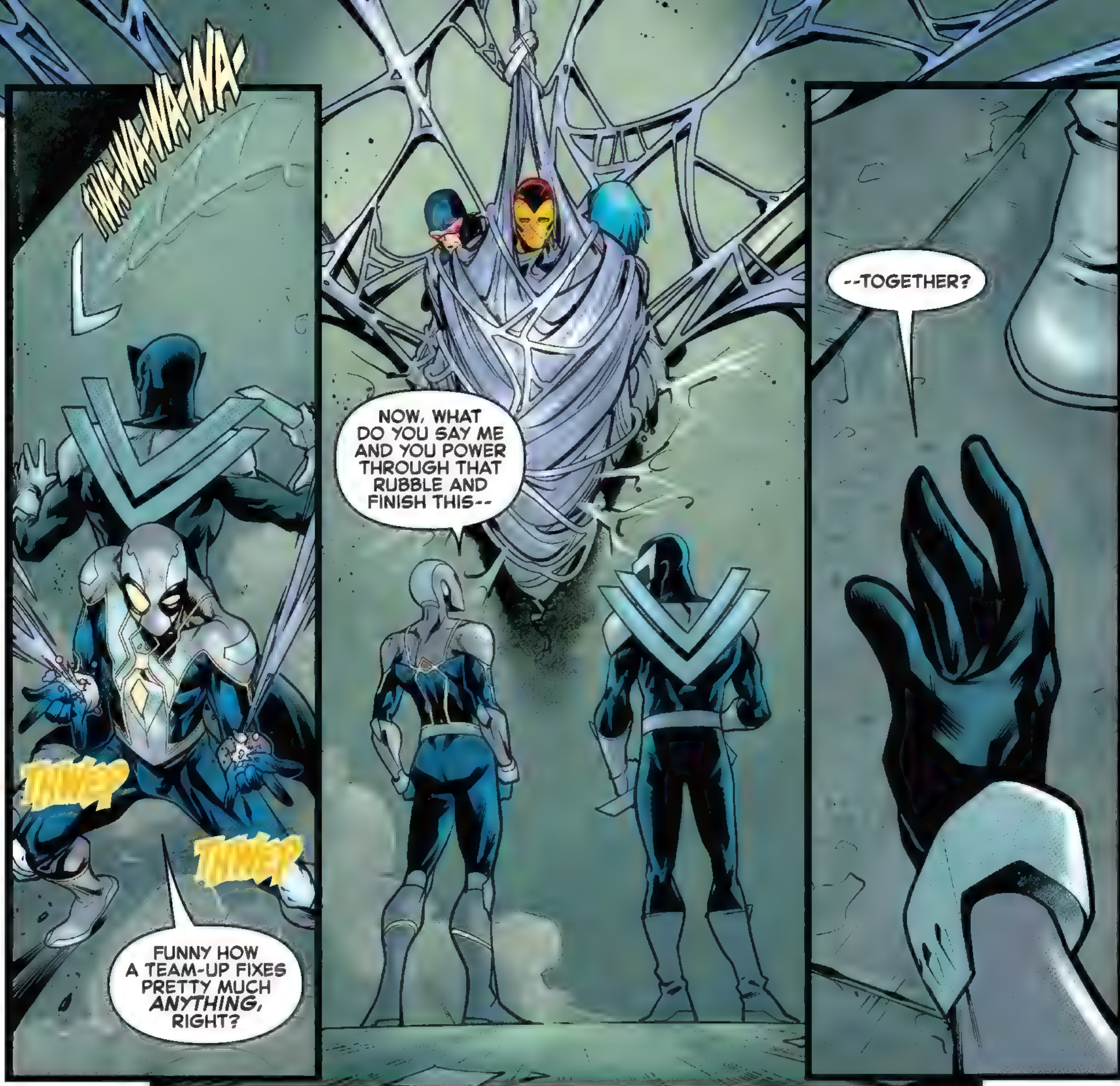






KROK

TW-KROK





"--LEAVE
THAT TO
ME."

THIS IS
MADNESS.
WE MUST
HURRY--



DOCTOR
CAREY!



PREPARE
THE--



DOCTOR
CAREY?!

OR RATHER,
LEAVE IT TO THE

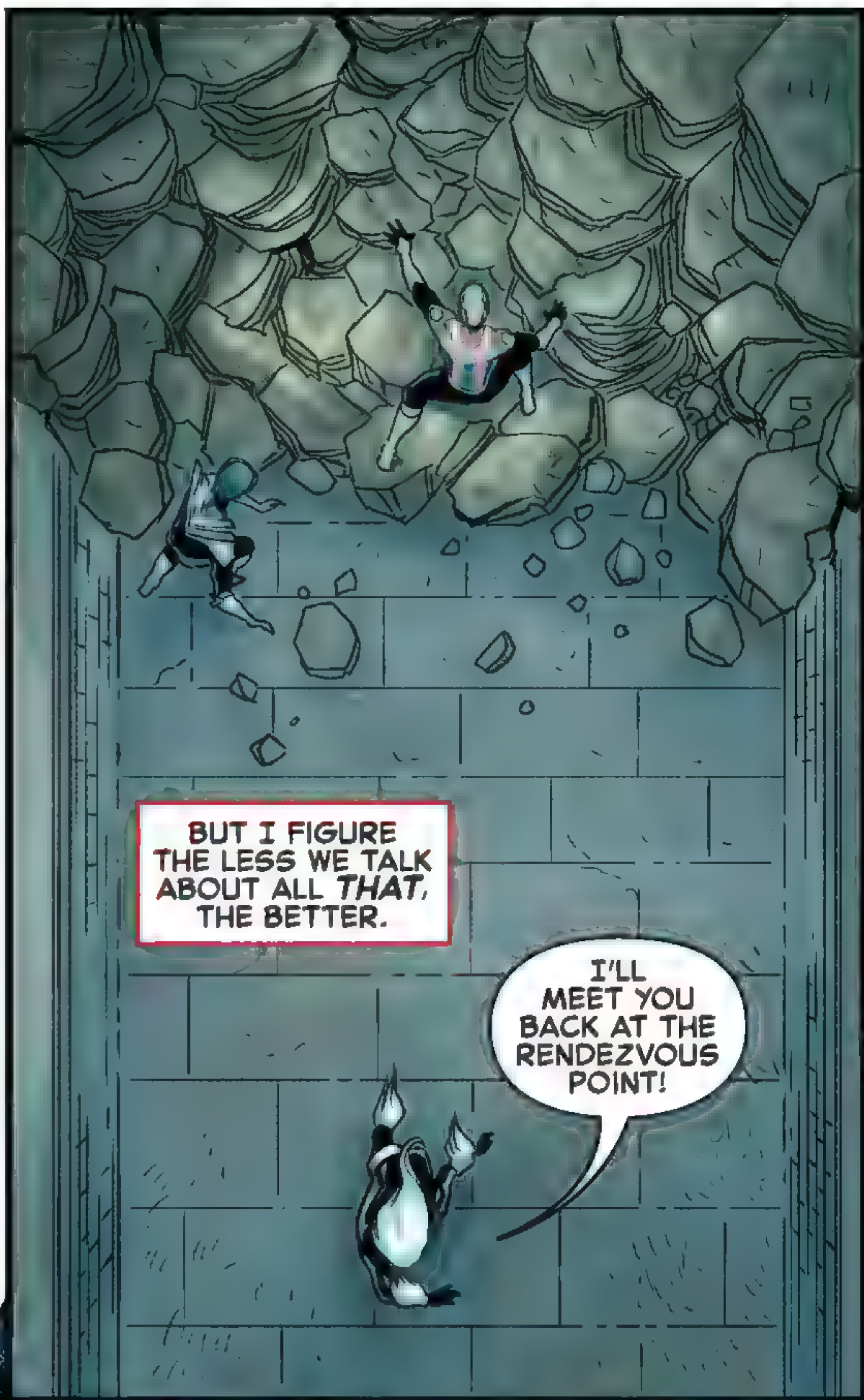
BLACK CAT



--MAKING
A SPECIAL
DELIVERY.

WE
USED TO
DATE.

WE
REALLY
DIDN'T.

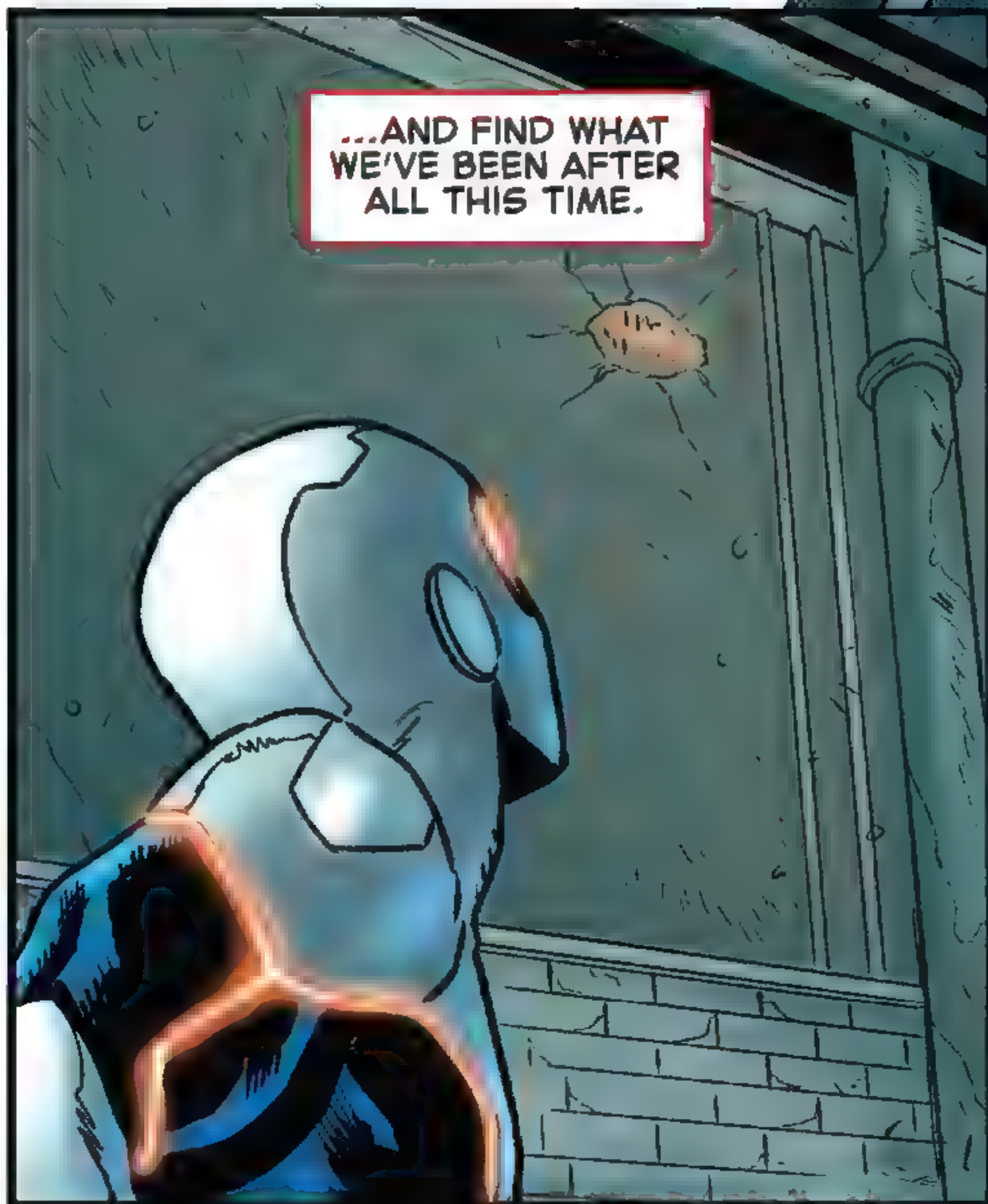


BUT I FIGURE
THE LESS WE TALK
ABOUT ALL *THAT*,
THE BETTER.

I'LL
MEET YOU
BACK AT THE
RENDEZVOUS
POINT!



GREAT PLAN, BUT FOR
NOW, I GOTTA GET
THROUGH THE RUBBLE
FROM THE *LAST MESS*
WE MADE DOWN HERE...



...AND FIND WHAT
WE'VE BEEN AFTER
ALL THIS TIME.



OF COURSE, JUST
LIKE EVERY *OTHER*
TIME YOU THINK THIS
THING IS COMING
TO AN END...





SPIDEY,
WHAT--WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

FRED,
COME ON.
WHEN WAS
THE LAST TIME
YOU *STOLE*
SOMETHING?

YOU MEAN
TODAY?



I THINK
I SHOULD
HANDLE THIS
PART.

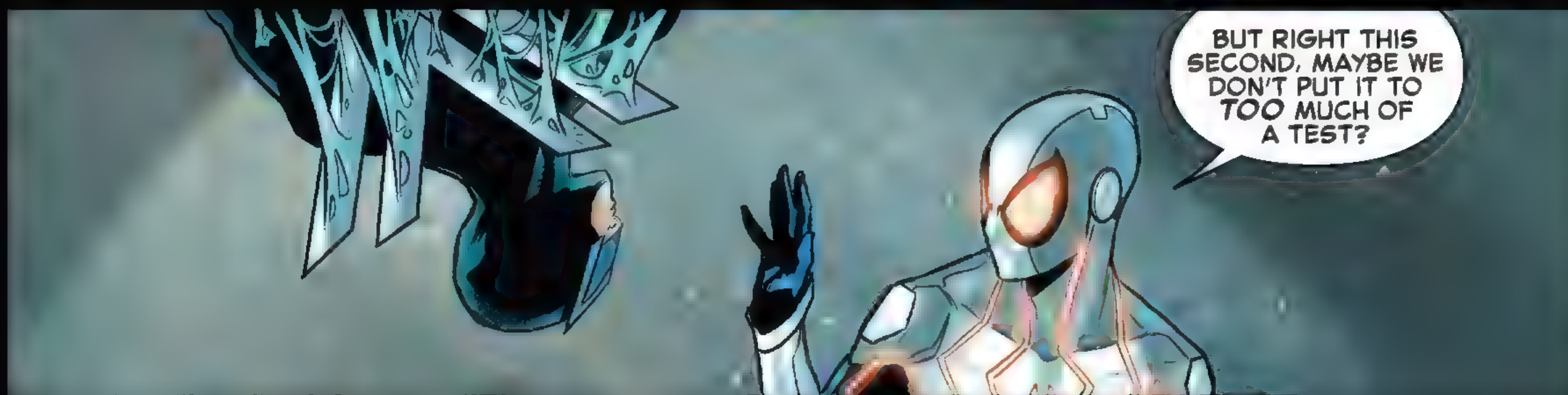
NO CHANCE!
I'M NOT GONNA
LET YOU RISK
YOUR LIFE--

AND THAT
TELLS ME
EVERYTHING
I NEED TO
KNOW.

YOU'VE
COME A
LONG WAY,
BOOMERANG.



AS FAR AS
I'M CONCERNED,
YOU'RE A HERO,
ALL RIGHT?



BUT RIGHT THIS
SECOND, MAYBE WE
DON'T PUT IT TO
TOO MUCH OF
A TEST?



THEN
AGAIN...

...I HAVEN'T FELT LIKE MUCH OF ONE LATELY, EITHER.

KINDRED--HARRY--HE DID A VERY GOOD JOB REMINDING ME OF ALL THE WAYS I MAY HAVE HURT MORE THAN I'VE HELPED AS SPIDER-MAN. AT LEAST WHEN IT COMES TO THE PEOPLE I LOVE.

LETTING MY ANGER TAKE CONTROL.

NOT LISTENING TO THE VOICE INSIDE MY HEAD THAT SAYS--

THIS IS IT, MY BOY!

JONAH!

DON'T YOU SEE? THIS IS YOUR BIG CHANCE!

FOR YEARS, THEY SAID YOU WERE A THREAT! A MENACE! A CRIMINAL!

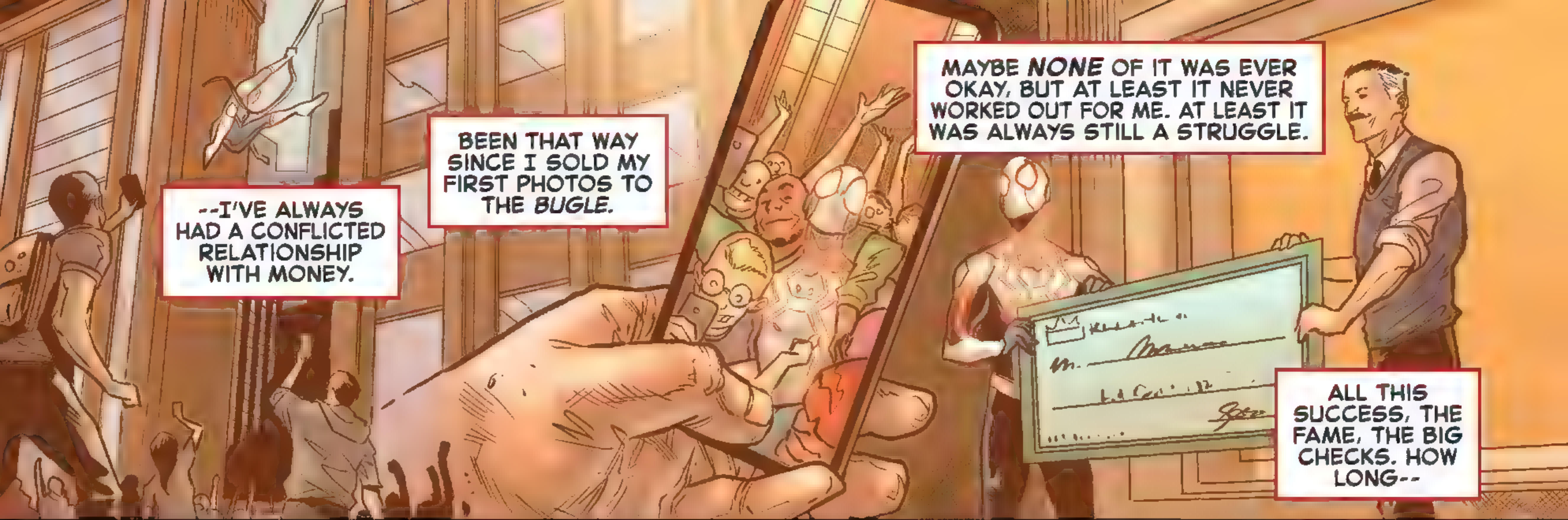
YOU SAID THAT!

AND NOW YOU CAN PROVE IT'S NOT TRUE!

YOU CAN LIVESTREAM TO THE WORLD AND LET THEM ALL SEE, ONCE AND FOR ALL-- SPIDER-MAN IS A HERO!

NO.

BECAUSE THIS IS THE OTHER THING--



--I'VE ALWAYS
HAD A CONFLICTED
RELATIONSHIP
WITH MONEY.

BEEN THAT WAY
SINCE I SOLD MY
FIRST PHOTOS TO
THE BUGLE.

MAYBE **NONE** OF IT WAS EVER
OKAY, BUT AT LEAST IT NEVER
WORKED OUT FOR ME. AT LEAST IT
WAS ALWAYS STILL A STRUGGLE.

ALL THIS
SUCCESS, THE
FAME, THE BIG
CHECKS. HOW
LONG--



--UNTIL I'M
MAKING THE
SAME
MISTAKES?



I DON'T KNOW
IF I'M A **HERO**.
BUT I'VE SEEN
ENOUGH OF THEM
TO KNOW--



--THE KEY IS TO
KEEP TRYING
TO BE **BETTER**.

I--I'M
SORRY, JONAH.
I APPRECIATE
EVERYTHING YOU'VE
BEEN TRYING TO DO
TO HELP ME, I
REALLY DO--



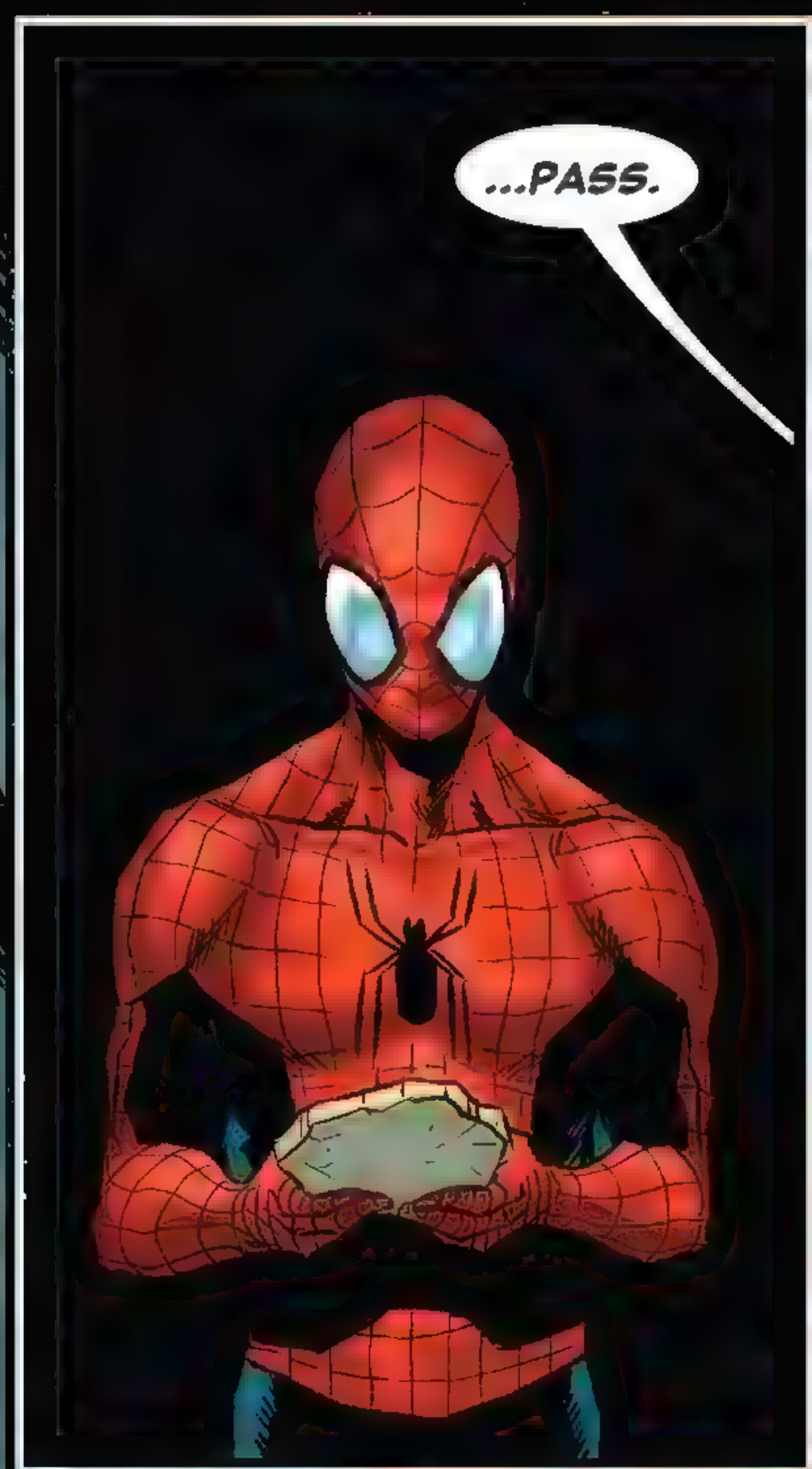


--BUT I GOTTA DO THIS MY WAY.



OKAY, MISTER WIZARD. BEFORE YOU EVALUATE ME, I SHOULD PROBABLY ALSO COME CLEAN ABOUT THAT TIME I FORGOT TO RETURN THOSE VIDEO TAPES--

YOU...



...PASS.



ARE YOU SURE THIS IS IT?

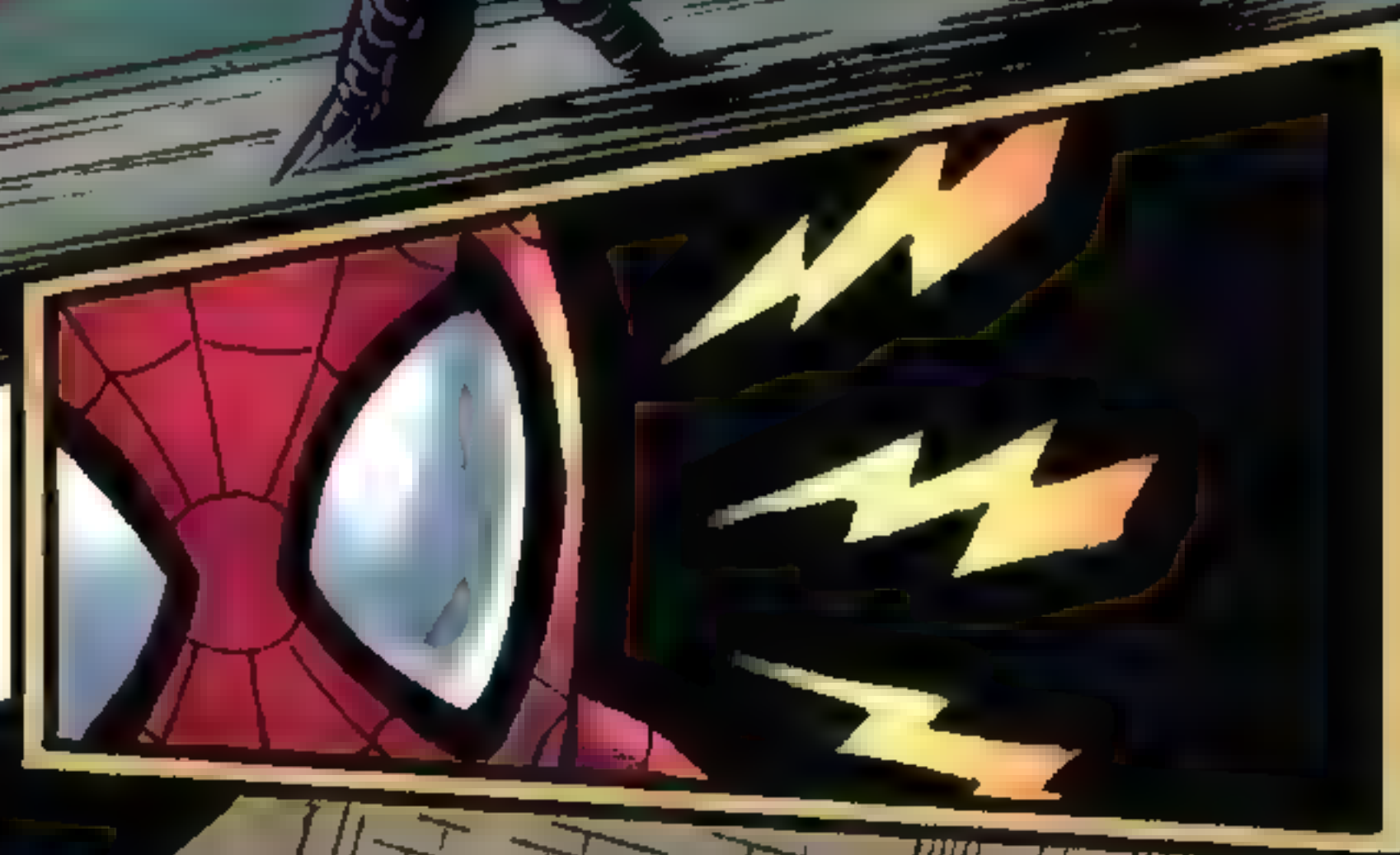
THANK YOU FOR
YOUR HELP
IN THE PAST

YEAH,
TURNS
OUT--

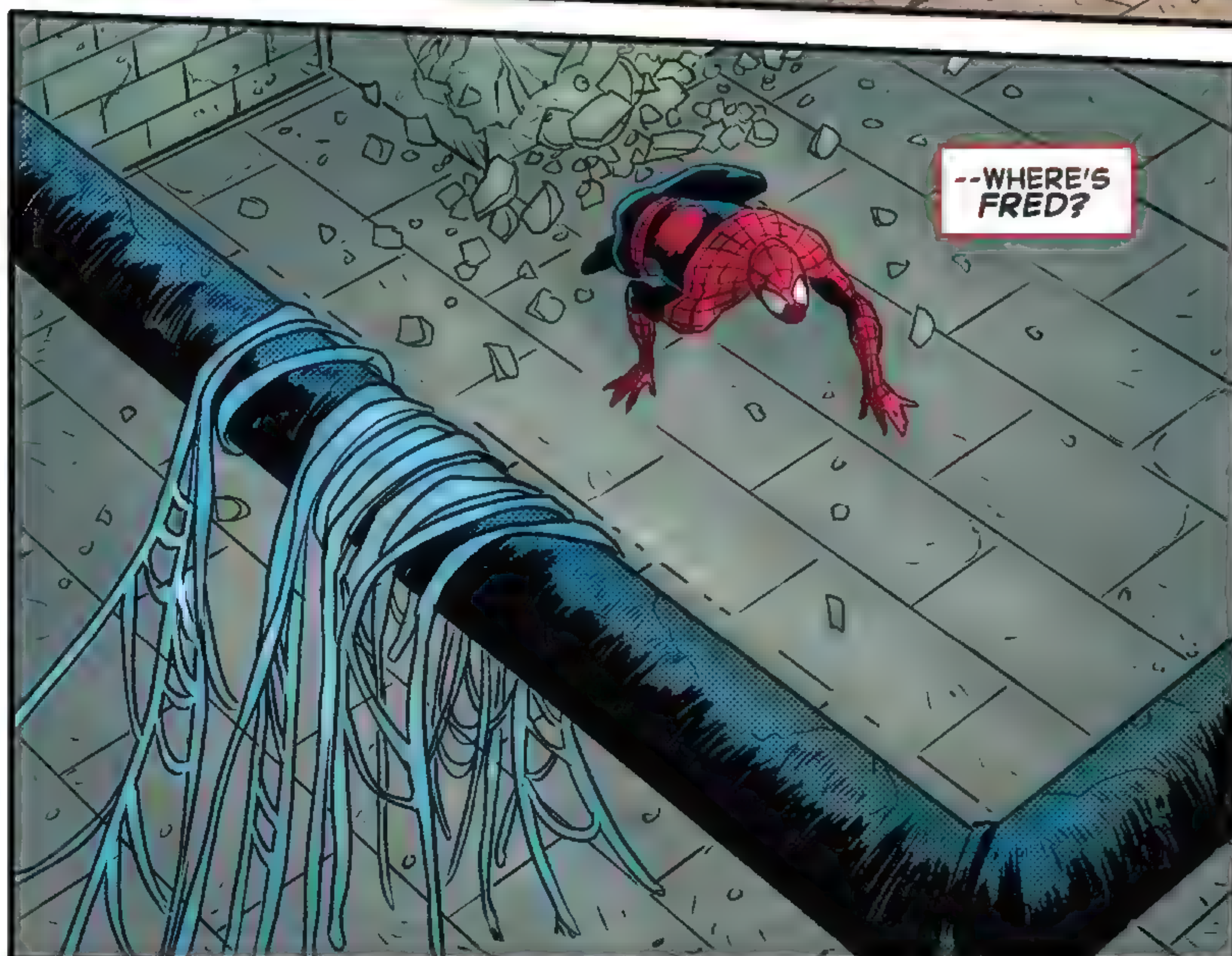
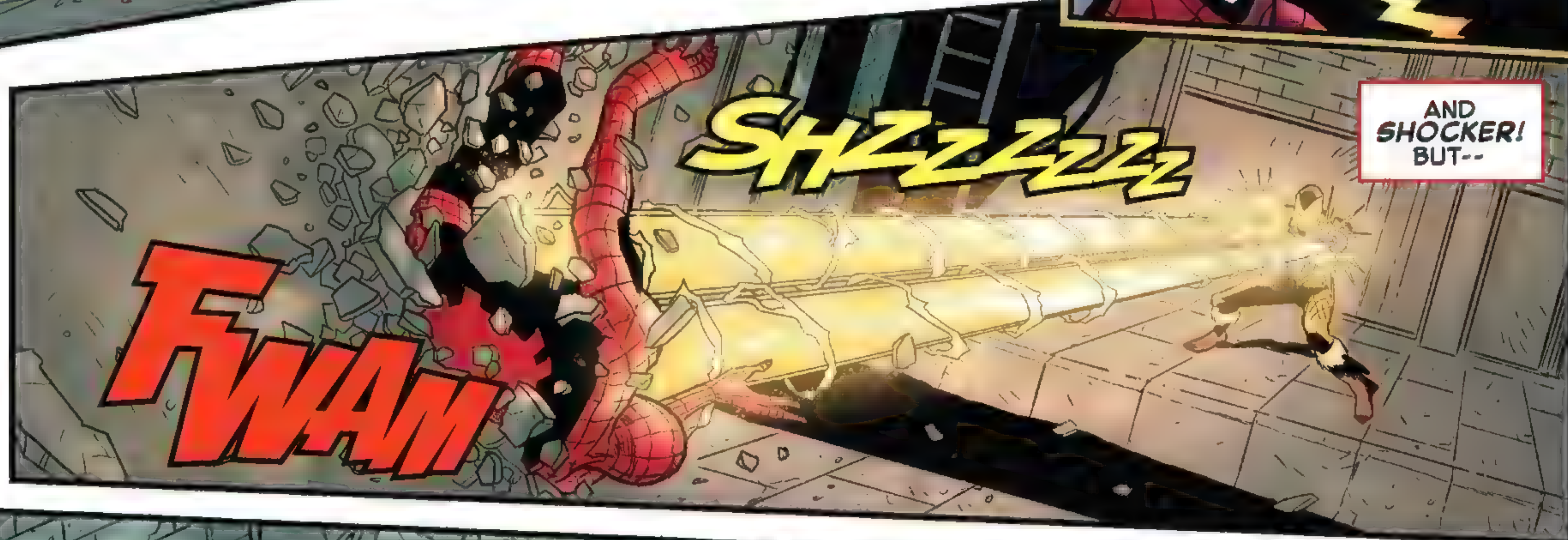


--THIS
IS IT.

SPEED DEMON.
HOW DID HE
GET LOOSE?



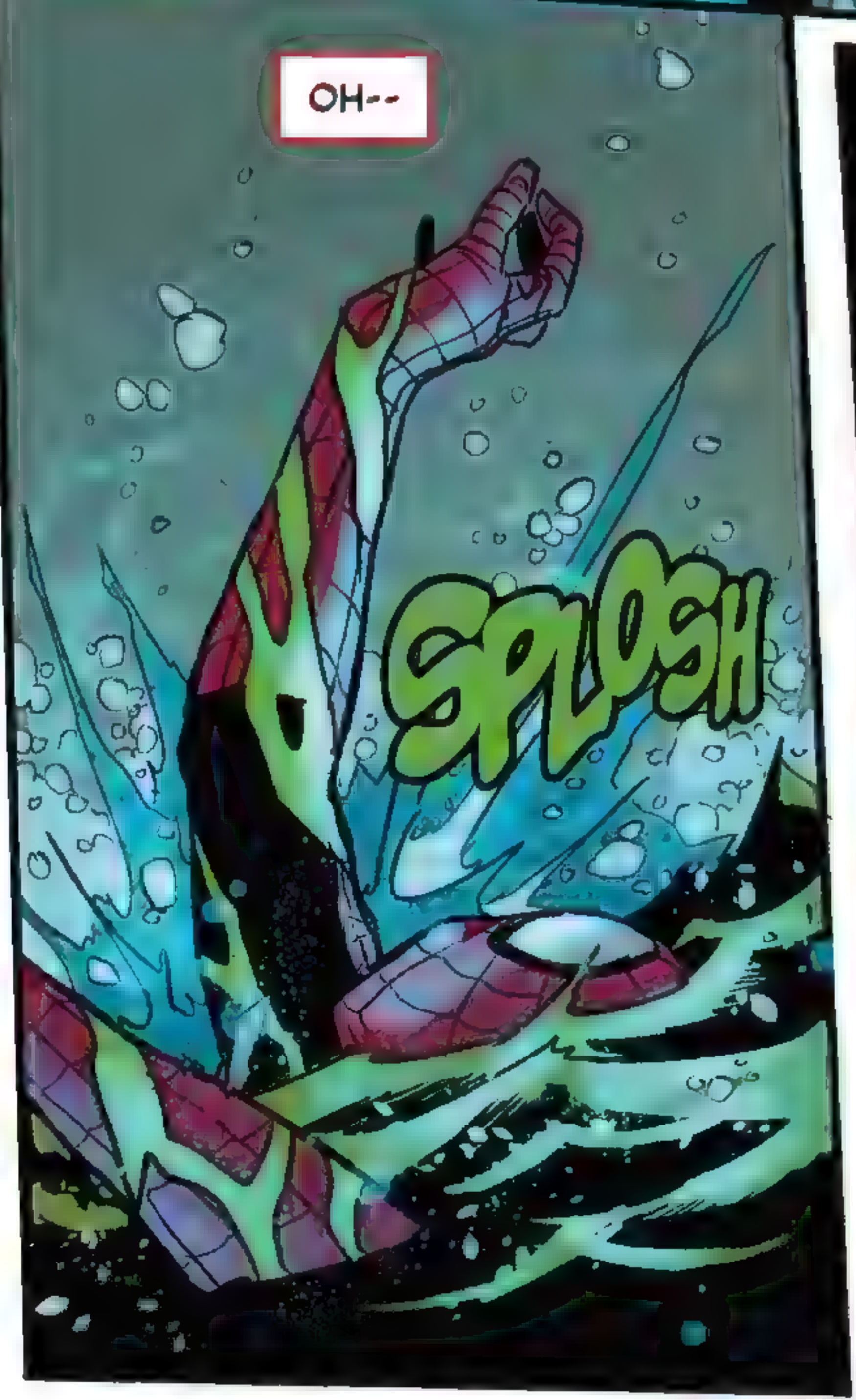
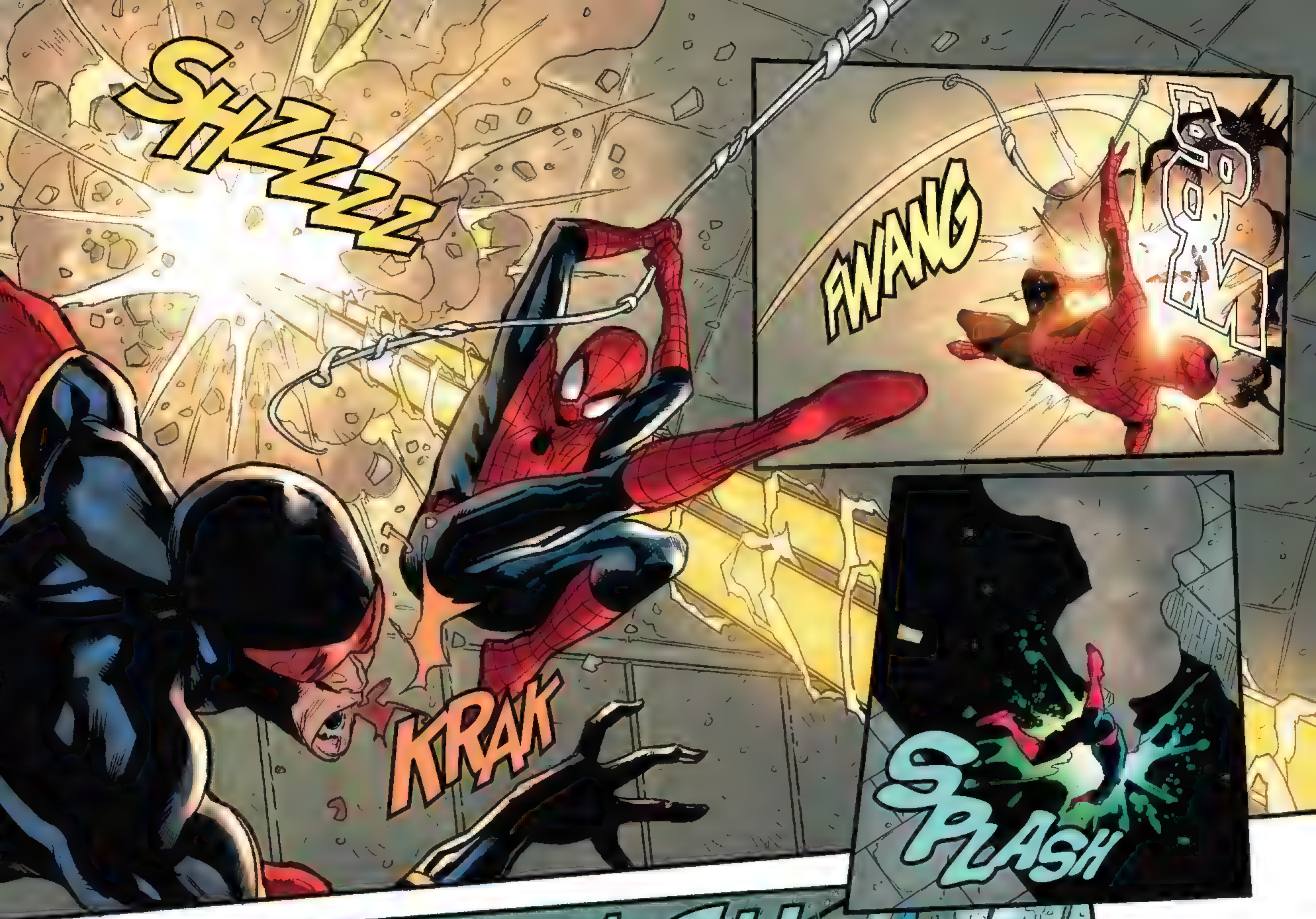
AND
SHOCKER!
BUT--

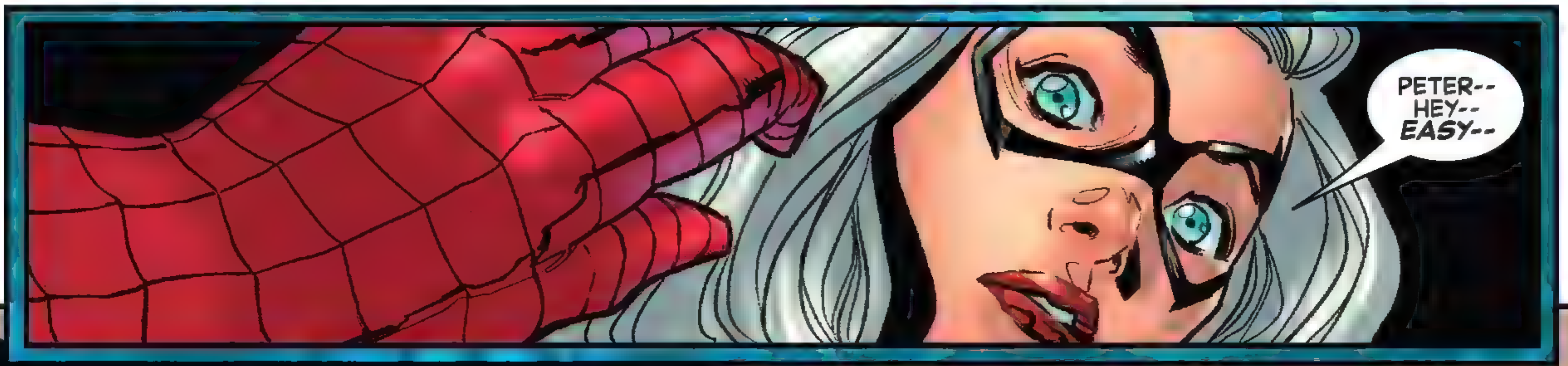


--WHERE'S
FRED?



THWIP





Dear Spidey--

You know, it's not cool to read someone else's mail. It's actually a federal offense!

Anyway, I betrayed you. Really sorry about that. But on the plus side--



--at least I finally
get to come clean.

A lot of what I told you was
true--the old city archivist
really did come to me, trying
to enlist me to find the Lifeline
Tablet fragments.

Trouble for him was I'd already
been enlisted to help find the
Lifeline Tablet fragments--

--by Willie
Fisk himself.

See, Fisk suspected the
Archivist was holding out on
him, so he set a trap, letting
the old guy overhear him after
a department meeting--

--and it worked.

So, see, the part where the
Archivist cast the spell that put
all the fragment locations in my
head, that was true.

--but it was
no coincidence.

HE GAVE
IT UP?

YEAH.
EASY
AS--

And so was the part
about the Kingpin's men
ambushing us right after--

I want you to know,
Spidey--I had nothing
to do with the old guy
getting murdered.

That was all Fisk's goons.



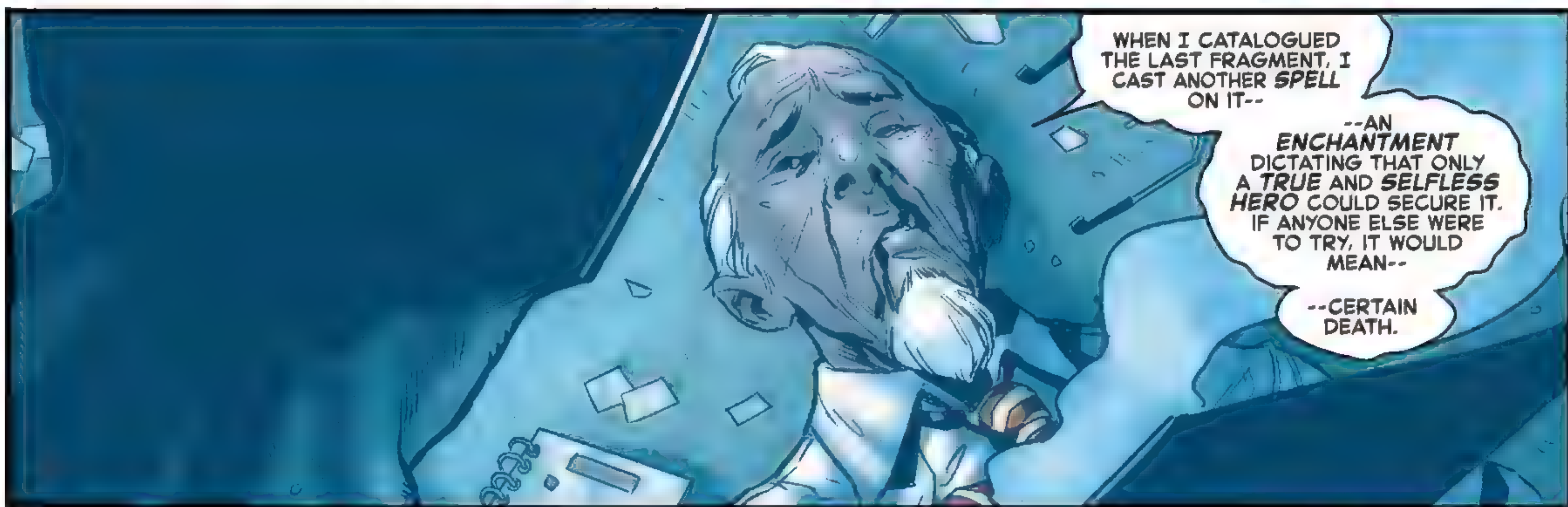
HEY! YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT! YOU COULD'VE LET HIM LIVE IN SHAME!

YOU--YOU LIED TO ME. YOU TRICKED ME!



SURE, S'TRUE, OLD-TIMER. BUT--I DIDN'T JUST BLOWTORCH YOU! YOU GOTTA PRIORITIZE YOUR GRUDGES!

HEH. THE JOKE'S ON YOU--



WHEN I CATALOGUED THE LAST FRAGMENT, I CAST ANOTHER SPELL ON IT--

--AN ENCHANTMENT DICTATING THAT ONLY A TRUE AND SELFLESS HERO COULD SECURE IT. IF ANYONE ELSE WERE TO TRY, IT WOULD MEAN--

--CERTAIN DEATH.



After that, negotiations between me and Fisk hit a real snafu.

WE HAD A DEAL, MYERS!

I mean, okay, there was some disagreement on the compensation package, but more importantly--



--I needed to not get certain death'ed.

Which meant if I was gonna get my hands on that last fragment, I needed help. I needed--

--a hero.

And I knew just the one.

Trick was figuring out how to get you to help me. But then I got lucky--

--when Spider-Man's pal, Peter Parker, posted an ad looking for a roommate.

What better way to get to the Web-Head than through his friends?

So I turned on my legendary charm. And in no time at all--

--we bonded. I earned his trust--

--and your trust, too.

Before I knew it we were working together, side by side, to put together the tablet.

I don't want you to think it was all an act, Spidey.

But at the end of the day, I'm me.

And you're you. Besides...



It was only a matter of time before someone we both care about gets hurt.



It's just business, Spidey...

This was the only way I could get my life back.

TO BOOMERANG!

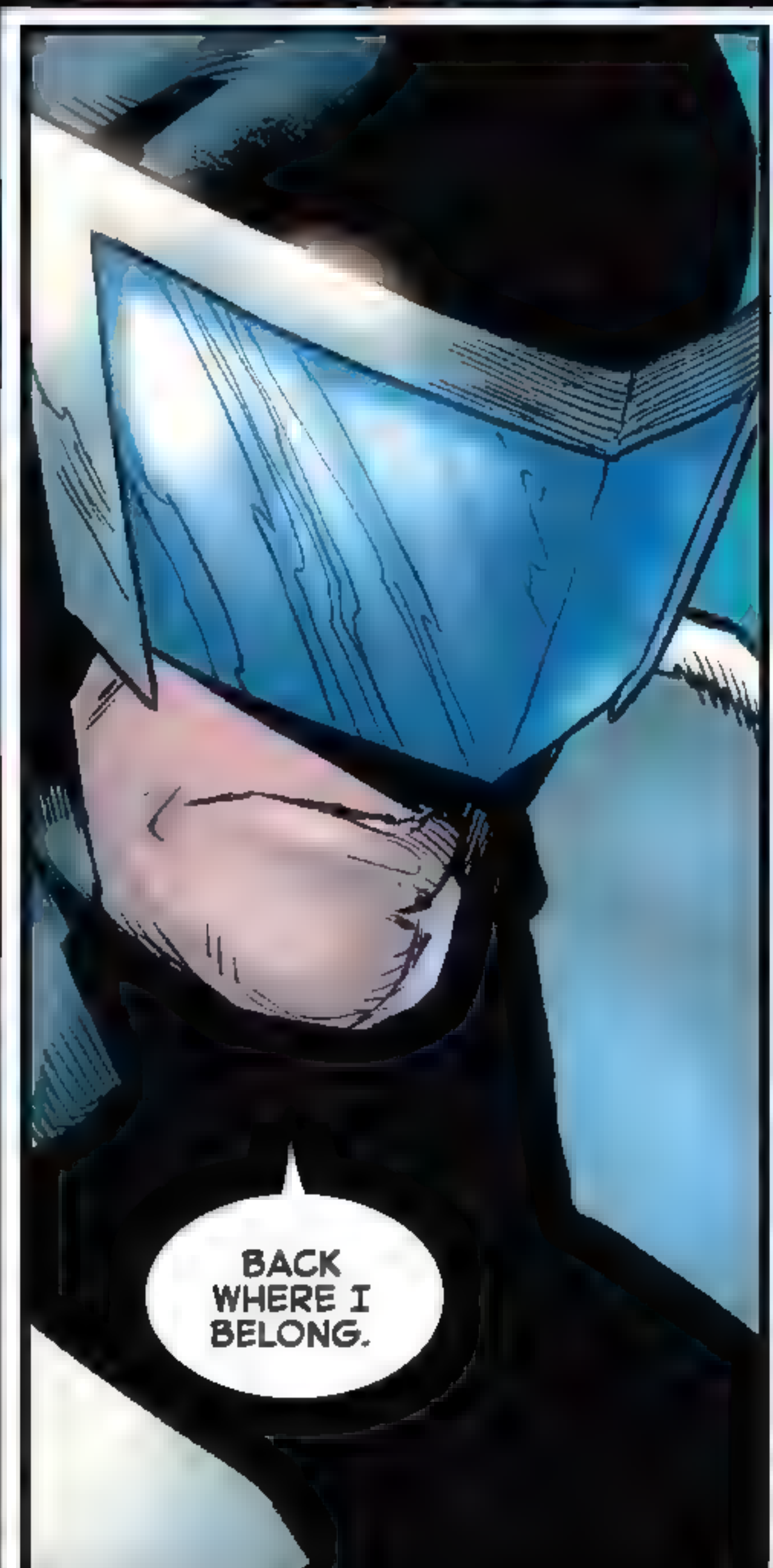


STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOUR PLAN WORKED, FRED. AND FOR ONCE, THE PLAN DIDN'T INVOLVE ME GETTING MURDERED SOMEHOW!



THAT'S RIGHT, FREDDIE BOY--YOU'RE BACK WHERE YOU BELONG!

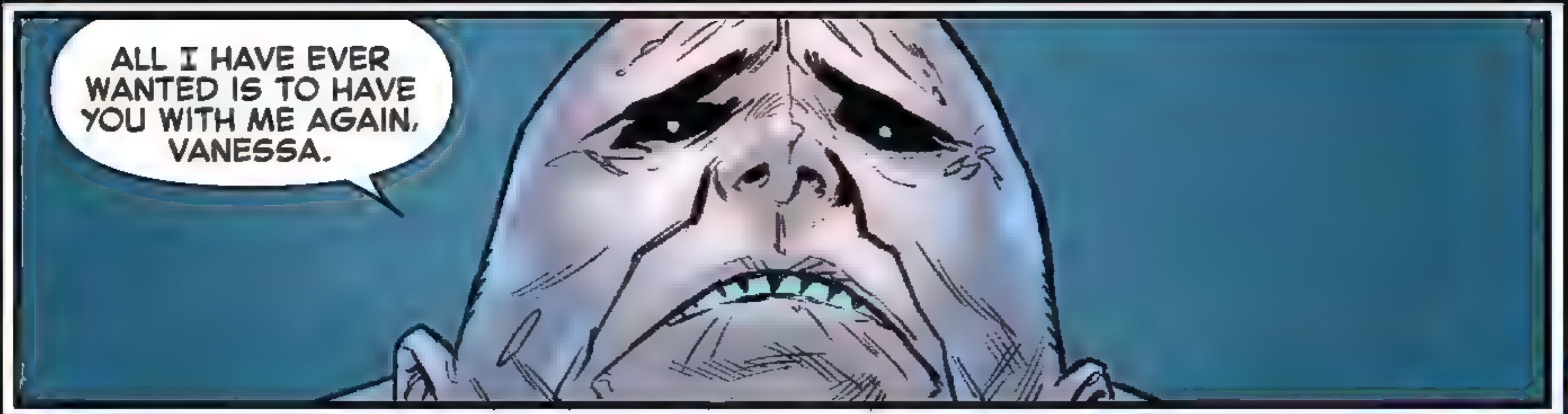
YEAH...



BACK WHERE I BELONG.







ALL I HAVE EVER WANTED IS TO HAVE YOU WITH ME AGAIN, VANESSA.



THE PAIN OF LOSING YOU-- NOT *JUST* LOSING YOU, BUT NOT EVEN BEING ABLE TO *BE THERE* WITH YOU WHEN YOU DIED--

--NOT EVEN BEING ABLE TO SAY *GOODBYE*--



"--IT BROUGHT ME TO MY KNEES."



FOR YEARS, I SEARCHED FOR A WAY--ANY WAY-- TO BRING YOU BACK.

AND WHEN IT LED ME TO THE DEMON KINDRED, I THOUGHT AT LAST I'D FOUND THE ANSWER.

BUT JUST LIKE EVERY OTHER TIME, IT TURNED OUT THAT ANSWER WAS--



NO.



I WAS **ANGRY**. REFUSING TO ACCEPT IT.

BUT IT WAS WHAT THE DEMON SAID NEXT THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING.



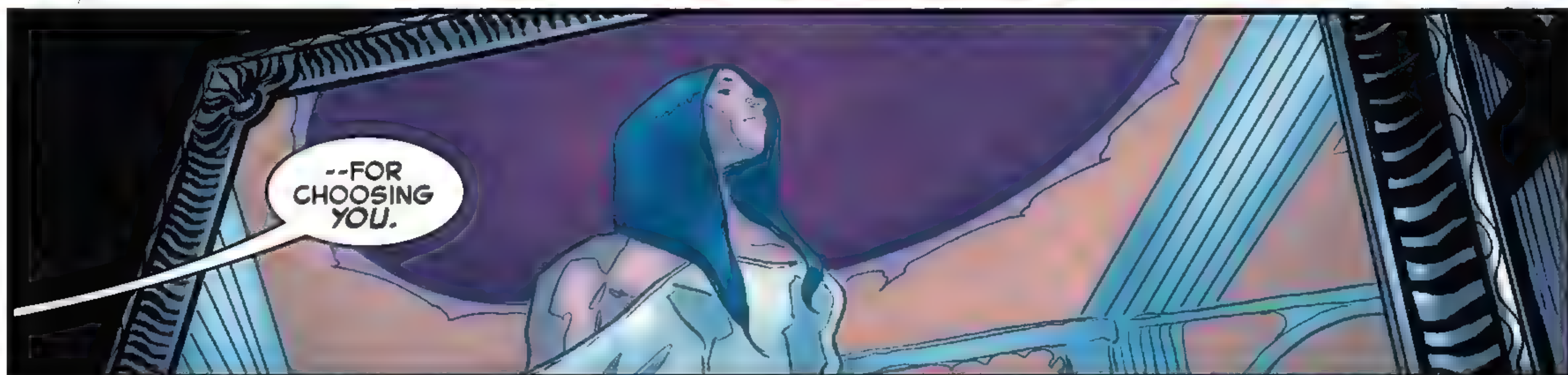
WHAT MAKES
YOU THINK SHE
EVEN **WANTS**
TO COME BACK
TO YOU?



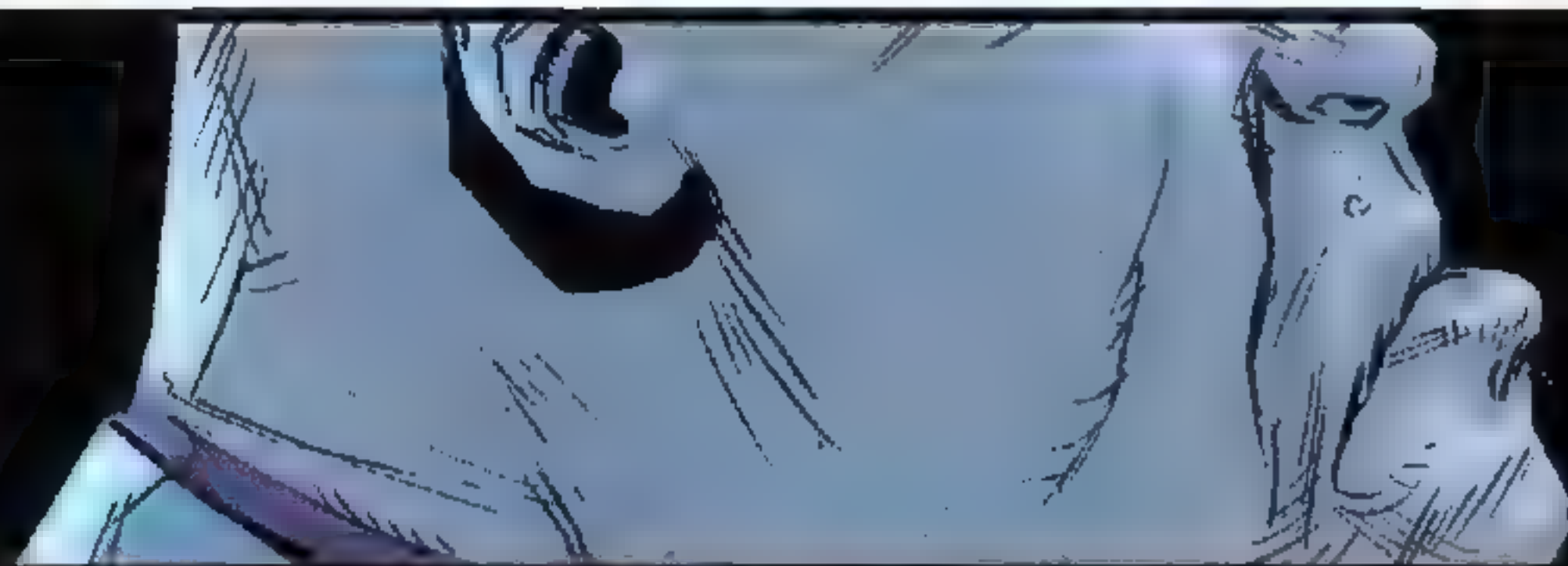
AND I
REALIZED...

...HE WAS
RIGHT.

THAT IF
I WERE ABLE TO
DO THE **IMPOSSIBLE**--
TO BRING SOMEONE
BACK TO **LIFE**--
YOU WOULD NEVER
FORGIVE ME--



--FOR
CHOOSING
YOU.



I HAVE TO LET YOU
GO, VANESSA. I--I
HAVE TO MOVE ON
WITH MY LIFE.

BUT TO DO SO, I
MUST KNOW YOUR
SPIRIT HAS FOUND
PEACE.

YOU DIED OF
A BROKEN HEART,
BECAUSE OF SOMETHING
YOU DID, OUT OF LOYALTY
AND LOVE...FOR ME.



"SOMETHING NO
MOTHER SHOULD
EVER HAVE TO DO.*

*BACK IN
DD VOL. 2,
#31. --NL



"BUT TODAY,
I WILL MAKE
THAT **RIGHT.**

"I WILL TRY TO ATONE
FOR ALL MY SINS THAT
BROUGHT YOU SO MUCH
PAIN AND DESTROYED
OUR FAMILY.



"INSTEAD OF
SATISFYING MY
OWN SELFISH
DESIRES, I WILL
HONOR YOUR
DYING WISH.

"TODAY, YOUR
SON'S LIFE IS
RESTORED."

"TODAY,
THE ROSE
BLOOMS ONCE
MORE."

HELLO,
DADDY.



NEXT:



Issue #66

Let us know how we're doing! Drop us a line at SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM!
Be sure to mark it "Okay to print"!

THE COMIC IN YOUR HANDS
ISN'T THE ONLY PLACE TO
FIND SPIDEY AND BLACK CAT
TOGETHER THIS WEEK...





THINGS'VE
GONE *SIDWAYS*,
BOYS--

FELICIA!



WHAT'S
GOING ON?
WHAT ARE THESE...
GOLD VINES?

I-I...
DON'T
KNOW.



FELICIA...

ARE YOU
MIXED UP
IN THIS?



NO.

MY HEART
HALF-BREAKS AT
HOW EASY IT IS
TO LIE TO HIM.



OKAY...

Whew.



I NEED TO
FIGURE OUT
WHAT'S GOING
ON. YOU THINK
REED RICHARDS
IS BUSY?

WHO AM
I KIDDING,
HE'S *ALWAYS*
BUSY.

IT BREAKS
ALL THE WAY
WHEN HE
BELIEVES ME
WITHOUT
QUESTION.

